



PEST ID GUIDE 1 OF 5

Fly Identification Guide

Flies are among the highest-risk pests in any food environment because they move directly between waste and food, carrying pathogens on their bodies. Use this guide to identify the common flies found in South African facilities.



House fly

Musca domestica

HOW TO SPOT IT

About 6-7 mm, dull grey thorax with four dark stripes, red eyes. Found near bins, drains and food-prep areas. Rests on walls and ceilings; active in daylight.

WHY IT IS A PROBLEM

Lands on food and surfaces, regurgitating as it feeds. Mechanically transfers Salmonella, E. coli and Shigella. A direct contamination and audit-failure risk.



Blow fly / bluebottle

Calliphoridae

HOW TO SPOT IT

Larger (8-12 mm), metallic blue or green body, loud buzzing flight. Attracted to meat, carcasses and protein waste.

WHY IT IS A PROBLEM

Indicates a hidden decaying source (dead rodent, waste). Carries pathogens from carrion onto product. A red flag in meat and protein facilities.



Fruit fly

Drosophila spp.

HOW TO SPOT IT

Tiny (3-4 mm), tan body, red eyes. Hovers around ripe or fermenting fruit, drains and empty bottles. Breeds in the film inside drains.

WHY IT IS A PROBLEM

Breeds explosively in fermenting residue; a persistent sign of sanitation gaps. Contaminates product and beverages and is hard to clear.



Drain / moth fly

Psychodidae

HOW TO SPOT IT

Small (2-5 mm), fuzzy moth-like look, weak fluttering flight. Rests on walls near floor drains, sumps and grease traps.

WHY IT IS A PROBLEM

Breeds in the organic sludge lining drains, proving inadequate drain cleaning. Signals a sanitation breakdown auditors will flag.

Seeing these on your site?

ASC Pest Control designs HACCP-aligned, audit-ready pest programmes for food and commercial facilities.

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